



THE COLONNADE

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INSIDE

NEWS

Pill good? Pill bad?
New FDA-approved diet pill hits counters.
Page 3

FEATURES

One dress fits all
Exhibit showcases the little or not-so-little classic at Blackbird.
Page 8



Let there be color
Mural to brighten barren walls of MSU.
Page 8

A Georgia peach goes Hollywood
GCSU Student finds her way to feature film "We Are Marshall."
Page 8

SPORTS

The Bobcat best
Sports information department introduces GCSU Athlete of the Week award.
Page 10

Defending their pride
The Lady Bobcats intend to hold PBC title.
Page 10



Dodge, hit and run
Intramural dodgeball tournament is a hit.
Page 11

WEEKEND WEATHER

Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
67 40 30%	66 33 10%	55 29 10%

Source: <http://weather.com>

NUMBER CRUNCH
58
Million

Number of Americans who are overweight or obese.

Source: americanheart.org

Bill to change commencement voted down

BY LEE SANDOW
SENIOR REPORTER

The bill put forth by the University Senate that would limit participation in commencement did not pass during the vote that took place on Monday, Feb. 26.

The bill, which had been proposed by the Academic Governance Committee, would have restricted any student from participating in the Spring commencement ceremony if they had not completed all the requirements of their degree.

"The room was pretty split," said Janessa Hartmann, president of SGA, and voting member of the University Senate. The previous vote, taken in January, had been an even tie.

Before the vote was taken, the bill was amended one last time. This "friendly" amendment changed the bill to omit the "in the Spring" clause, in case Winter or Fall graduations were ever reintroduced. All classes would need to be completed at any time of graduation.

"(The committee) spoke for about 15 minutes," SGA senator Ryan Greene said. "Then they voted, and the vote did not pass."

Hartmann was pleased with the result, as she thought students

should have had more of an influence in the decision.

"One of the faculty made a comment, talking about the philosophy between whether commencement was a celebration or a rite of passage," Hartmann said. "My personal feelings are that this committee had to decide if it was a rite of passage, and I think it doesn't make much sense that a committee of mostly faculty and staff should decide."

Hartmann was pleased with the number of faculty members who were opposed to the bill. "I was surprised," Hartmann said. "Many teachers stood up for the students."

Doug Oetter, assistant professor of geography, and Sandra Godwin, assistant professor of sociology, both spoke on behalf of the students.

The Colonnade was unable to contact a faculty member before deadline.

There are no plans to try to continue to introduce the bill at this time.

Dr. Beth Rushing plans to introduce a new proposal that would limit the number of classes that a student can drop over the course of their studies at GCSU at the next meeting, which will occur on March 26.

The advent of dining dollars

BY BRIAN FARRELL
STAFF REPORTER

For the last two years, GCSU meal plans for freshman have come with either \$150 or \$200 in "Cat Cash" that came at a discounted rate and could be used in any on campus venue or off campus in places such as Zaxby's, Luigi's, Baberitos and CVS.

Beginning Fall 2007, freshman meal plans will come with either \$150 or \$200 in "Dining Dollars," which are discounted but now may only be used on campus. If students wish to continue to use their Bobcat Cards to buy food and groceries at off-campus locations, they will have to deposit money into

their Cat Cash account, which is now totally separate and purchased on a dollar-to-dollar scale. Many students and businesses have voiced their concerns over the new policy.

"I don't understand why they would do this," said Melody Saldivar, a freshman marketing major. "I use my card at Luigi's and Zaxby's, and I know my parents won't deposit money into a separate account so I can go out to eat when I already have a meal plan."

The school believes the new system will best fit the needs of parents and students.

"When we imple-

DINING Page 3

'Vagina' speaks out



BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Freshman Kara Cox (above) delivers an impassioned speech during "The Vagina Monologues", which is showing in Russel Hall from Thursday until Saturday. Precluding the main performance are "The Penis Soliloquies." The monologues are part of V-Day, an organized response against violence towards women. The event is hosted by the Womens Resource Center along with other campus organizations.



New housing policies used to entice upperclassmen

BY BRIAN FARRELL
STAFF REPORTER

For upperclassmen, it can be a real hassle trying to find a residence near campus; especially with new zoning laws passed and school policy that has traditionally prioritized the needs of incoming freshmen.

Beginning next semester, GCSU will introduce drastic changes to old policy in order to accommodate the eating and sleeping demands of sophomores and upperclassmen alike.

"We really value the on-campus experience here at GCSU," said Bill Frowine, associate director of Operations at University Housing. "Our upperclass-



JIMI ODOM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

In addition to adding a new dining complex to West Campus, a community room is being added to the 500 and 600 buildings.

men have different needs than our freshmen and we've developed a different model in order to serve those needs."

Next semester, incoming freshman will be housed exclusively in Parkhurst,

HOUSING Page 2

Parking perplexes visitors

BY BROOKE WILLIAMS
STAFF REPORTER

As the GCSU student body continues to grow larger each year, parking problems at the university continue to grow as well. Students and faculty aren't the only ones who have had trouble decoding GCSU's parking lot alphabet. Visitors to the campus have had to dish out cash for violating GCSU parking regulations that some visitors

say are unclear.

"Audrey Davis and I were on campus to talk to a marketing class about our business, Salon 2000," said Deborah Morrow, a Milledgeville business owner. "Some of the students in the class brought us visitor parking passes a few days before we came to the school and told us what area to park in. All the visitor-parking places were full when we arrived but we thought since we had the

permits that we could park anywhere and since there were several employee parking spots open, we parked in them. But we were wrong because our cars got towed."

Morrow said she had asked a student on the way to the class if they could park in the employee spaces since they had the visitor permits and were

PARKING Page 2



ANDREA GRIFFIN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Many visitors, such as the driver of this vehicle in the lot beside Bell Hall, have returned to their cars and found tick-

Housing

Continued from Page 1...

Foundation, and Wells Halls. The remaining freshmen will stay in buildings 500 and 600 in Bobcat Village. Bell Hall will be a mix of upperclassmen and freshmen in the honors program. Adams and Napier will be used for sophomores and upperclassmen, as will buildings 100, 200, 300 and 400 in Bobcat.

One of the main gripes among parents and students in the past has been the school's mandatory meal plan policy for students residing in the residence halls, an expense that gen-

erally costs between \$1,200 and \$1,700 per year, (or \$120-\$170 per month if you figure in a 10 month school year.) This has driven many older students off campus to complexes such as College Station and The Grove, which range in price from \$415 per month for a two bedroom in Phase I of College Station to \$515 per month for a two bedroom in The Grove. While cable and Internet are included, students receive a \$10 monthly "allowance" for water and a \$30 "allowance" towards power, which amounts to what most people would call a "discount."

After utilities, off-campus residents can expect to



JIMI ODOM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Many changes have been made to Bobcat Village and the residence halls to encourage upperclassmen to live there.

pay between \$500 and \$600 a month per person, assuming they don't have anything to eat. Students

who live on campus will pay around \$450 per month with all utilities included, plus the meal plan option of

their choice.

"There's been a huge push by housing to keep upperclassmen on campus," said Mike Haun, marketing manager of Auxiliary Services. "We've amended our contract with Sodexho Dining Services to make the meal plans optional, and we're always looking for ways to make things better for students."

While freshman on central campus will still be subjected to an unlimited plan for \$1,695 or a 14 meal per week plan of \$1,600, Bobcat Village freshman will have the 150-block plan option for \$1,260. All non-freshman will now have a totally

optional meal plan policy with any of the above options plus a 100-block meal plan option for \$680 and a 25-block option for \$170.

There is also a new dining hall facility in the works for West Campus next year.

"We're not sure exactly what it's going to be yet, but we're thinking somewhere along the lines of a Panera Bread-type place," said Kyle Cullars, executive director of Auxiliary Services. "What we do know is that it's going to be very nice, and in some way it will be tied into the meal plan."

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Details on page 11

Parking

Continued from Page 1...

told they most likely could, but they might get a ticket.

"We thought the worse thing that could happen was that we could get a ticket," Morrow said. "We didn't think our cars would be towed."

Morrow said she would not have known what to do if two students from the marketing class had not been with them when they realized their cars were gone. They ended up having to pay \$ 75 in fines to get their cars back.

People from the local business community aren't the only visitors to the school that have experienced parking problems at GCSU. Some parents visiting their kids at school have complained that designated visitor parking is not clearly marked and there aren't many visitor spaces located close to the residential halls.

Greg Brown, manager of

Parking and Transportation is aware of some of the issues with visitor parking but said they do as much as possible to accommodate visitors on campus.

"We ask visitors to come by the Parking and Transportation office at Bobcat Village first and we give them a permit and a map and then off they go," Brown said. "We understand that the office is not centrally located to the heart of campus, but we are trying to get that word out to swing by here first, that way you're not wasting time driving around and maybe illegally parking."

Haley Reese, a freshman that lives in Foundation Hall said she is sympathetic to visitor parking problems but she isn't sure what a good solution would be.

"When my family comes to visit they always have a difficult time finding a parking spot close to Foundation Hall, they have even gotten a couple of parking tickets so I think it is a valid issue," Reese said. "But students have to



ANDREA GRIFFIN / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
It is a common concern for parents and students in the residence halls that finding guest parking is often difficult.

deal with parking problems everyday, and I am not willing to give up any student spots for more visitor parking until more student parking is made available."

Kyle Cullars, executive director of Auxiliary Services said they are constantly reevaluating the parking system at GCSU. They hold meetings with student and faculty representatives to discuss cur-

rent parking issues and problems so everyone can be heard and solutions can be made, but parking is always an issue at colleges and universities.

"I think parking is just one of those things," Cullars said. "We have an adequate supply of spaces but everybody wants to park at their front door, even if it is only for five minutes."

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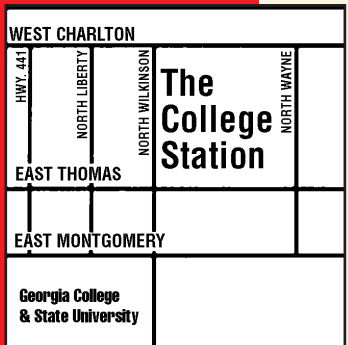


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Students resist the allure of FDA approved diet pills

BY DEVIN VERNICK
SENIOR REPORTER

This month, struggling dieters will have a new weapon available to help in the war against weight gain - The first non-prescription diet pill approved by the Federal Drug and Food Administration.

With GCSU students seeing Spring break on the horizon, dreaming of the ideal beach body, the simplicity of a diet pill may be tempting.

Diet pills have been available through prescription for several years now and various diet trends continue to be popular among various populations. Diet products such as Trim-Spa and Hoodia (popularized by Oprah Winfrey) have made recent headlines. The fat-blocking weight-loss pill Orlistat, which has been sold through prescrip-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WEB

tion, is the first pill approved for general use to be approved by the FDA.

GlaxoSmithKline PLC will sell the store version as “Alli.” The company chose the title “Alli” because it is suppose to be “allied” with exercise and healthy eating on a consistent basis.

When taken with meals, Orlistat blocks the absorption of one-quarter of fat consumed. The fat - nearly 150-200 calories worth - is

passed out of the body in stools. About half the patients in trials experienced gastrointestinal side effects.

Amy Whatley, program coordinator of the Wellness Depot, believes the potential side effects undermine the new diet pill’s claims.

“The fat calories that are blocked by this have to go straight through you,” Whatley said. “The potential effect is that you can’t

control your bowels, because you’re body is having to remove this waste so quickly.”

While the side effects may be undesirable, diet products are a booming business in the United States and Europe, and the option to lose weight with the help of a pill may find popularity among individuals seeking that quick solution.

Dr. Charles Ganely, the FDA’s director of non-prescription products, stressed that “Alli” is intended for use with a regular diet and exercise program in an

interview with CBS News. “Using this drug alone is unlikely to be beneficial,” Ganely said.

Numerous health officials are split between whether or not diet drugs are the best solution to the obesity epidemic that currently plagues the United States.

“What it all boils down to is moderating your diet and making exercise a daily habit,” Whatley said. “It’s all about a lifestyle change, I would never recommend a supplement instead.”

In a survey done by The Colonnade, a random sam-

ple of 50 GCSU students were asked whether or not they would purchase this new product without any additional information. Only three students answered “yes.”

Dana Tyler, a sophomore pre-exercise science major, disagrees with taking a pill claiming to block fat calories.

“Your body needs certain fats for various metabolic processes,” Tyler said. “Not having a fat in your diet could be detrimental to your body.”

Dining

Continued from Page 1...

mented the Cat Cash program in August of 2004, we knew it was going to be temporary,” said Kyle Cullars, executive director of Auxiliary Services. “Now that we’ve got the Bobcat Card program up and running, we’ve modified the system to address some parental concerns over use of the cards for books and off campus spending.”

Most students say they will miss the variety of dining options most.

“I think we spend more than enough money on campus already,” said freshman Anna Maddox. “I eat in the dining hall every day, but it’s nice to be able to go off campus once

in a while where the food is a little better.”

The group that seems to be angriest about the change in the meal plan policy is the restaurant owners who signed a contract with the school to take the Bobcat Cards.

“This is not the way we understood it would work,” said Al Autry, district manager of Barberito’s and Zaxby’s. “This is clearly a money-making venture on the part of the school and it’s not fair to the students. It’s the students’ money, they should be able to eat wherever they want.”

One of the biggest problems with the system has been the machines used to swipe the cards.

“The machines are \$1,000 apiece,” Autry said. “I just bought my third one and I wouldn’t have if I would’ve known this was

going to happen, but now I guess I’m stuck with it. Worst of all, I can’t believe this is how I have to find out. We’re their best customers.”

Autry says Zaxby’s lost \$9,000 last year when the school failed to hook the machines up properly. Other businesses have had similar experiences.

“We’ve had this stupid machine for three months,” said Max Buzied, International House of Pancakes manager. “I don’t know what we can do, but right now it’s useless to us and no one seems to know how to fix it.”

To voice your opinions or concerns over the new policy, contact Sodexo general manger Neal Siegler by phone at 445-3663 or email him at neal.siegler@gcsu.edu.

THE SGA NEWSFEED

Another busy week has come and gone for your GCSU Student Government. The manager of The Brick presented SGA with an award this past Wednesday, explaining to the Senate that GCSU has won a Gold Kaleidoscope Award for its 2005 Sweetwater Festival. Competing against numerous other professional premier festivals, the Sweetwater Festival has been recognized as one of the best around!

Congratulations to all sponsoring departments, faculty, SGA, and the student body for creating such

a high standard for other festivals to model.

Also in senate, the Mathematical Association of America has been granted \$225 to help fund their trip to the annual Southeastern Sectional Meeting of Mathematical Association of America being held in Statesboro this March. Following this Bill, \$800 was granted to help alleviate the cost of T-shirts for this year’s Dance Marathon – the school’s largest fundraiser of the year. Finally, the Sassy Cats dance Team was granted \$420 to help them travel to Lander University

in Greenwood, S.C., to compete in the Peachbelt Conference at the beginning of March.

Additionally, thanks to everyone who came out and voted in the SGA Executive Elections and congratulations to the new executive board!

And as always, if your Registered Student Organization needs support, contact your SGA representative or stop by the Student Activities Center to talk to one of the many helpful senators on hand.

Submitted by
Senator Justin Haight

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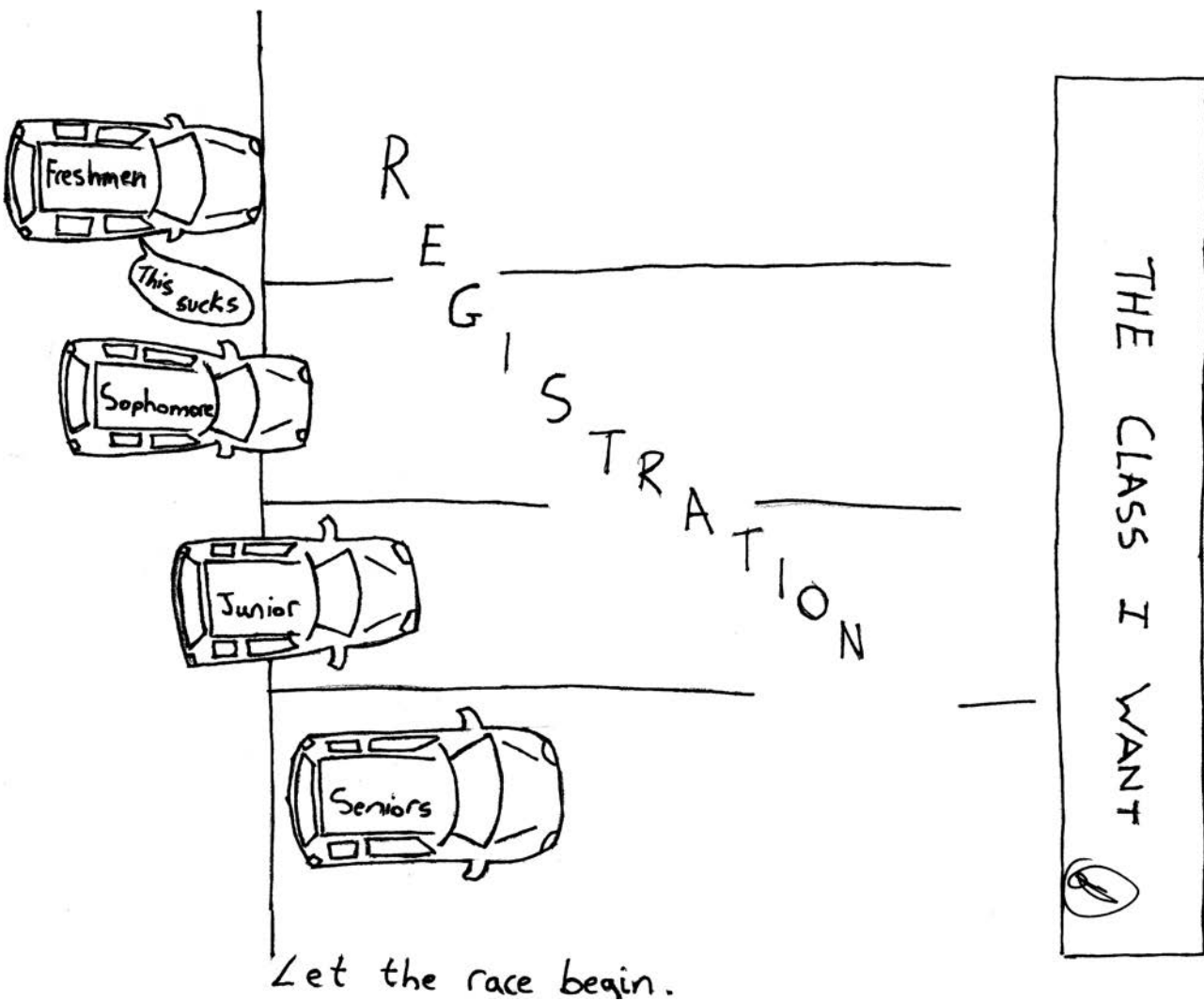
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DOMINY'S DOODLES

BY KYLE DOMINY



Lieberman belongs among U.S. heros



BY ANDREW ADAMS
COLUMNIST

We learn in our American history classes about heroes like George Washington, Thomas Edison, Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr. Each of them accomplished great things while they were alive and, decades after they pass on, they are remembered for their bravery, integrity and courage. We generally don't often think of people presently in public life as heroes until years after their death. But I believe that there is one popular figure that, love him or hate him, is not appreciated enough for his bravery, integrity and courage.

The man I am talking about is a democrat. He has run for president and even made a presidential ticket for the democrats. Joe Lieberman ran for

vice-president as Al Gore's running-mate in 2000. Lieberman even made history as the first Jewish person on a presidential ticket of either major party. And, in 2000, the democrats loved Lieberman. What's not to love about him? He's progressive on social issues and economic issues while moderate on foreign issues.

After a warm reception running for vice-president in 2000, Senator Lieberman decided to press his luck with a Presidential bid. In 2004, Lieberman ran for the Democratic nomination, but had to withdraw his nomination after receiving well under 5% in almost every poll. When he withdrew he endorsed Howard Dean, the most popular Democrat running, and by far the most liberal Democrat.

Then 2006 came around and it was Lieberman's turn to run for re-election again. Senator Lieberman has always easily won his re-elections as a Senator dating back to 1988, but this time he was facing some fierce competition. This competition didn't come from the the Republican Party. It came from his own party. A Connecticut businessman

named Ned Lamont decided to challenge Lieberman solely because Lieberman voted for the War in Iraq in 2003. In no time, democrats from all over the country flew in to support Lamont's campaign to defeat the former vice-presidential candidate. Even leading democrats like Hillary Clinton and John Kerry, both of whom voted for the War in Iraq, were holding fund-raisers for Ned Lamont. The Democratic National Committee led by Howard Dean, whom Lieberman endorsed for president in 2004, decided to fund Lamont's campaign with money from the Democratic Party.

The cards were stacked against Lieberman as he suffered a loss in the Democratic Senate Primary to Ned Lamont. The only way for Lieberman to stay a senator was to run as an independent and defeat the same party that he ran for president for just two years prior.

With support from the Republican National Committee, Senator Lieberman was able to maintain his Senator status. After winning election for the first time in his life as an "independent",

Lieberman decided to caucus with Democrats giving them a one vote majority in the Senate.

None of that makes Lieberman a hero. Not even with the insurmountable odds that he overcame to get where he is today. Although, what Senator Lieberman did last week does make him a national hero. Despite Lieberman's criticisms of President Bush's handling of the War in Iraq, Lieberman tried to put to rest his fellow Democrats talk about cutting off funding for the troops. Lieberman told the nation that if Democrats cut off funding for the troops then he will switch parties giving Republicans a majority in the Senate.

The way that he puts it, "I am a loyal Democrat, but I have loyalties that are greater than those to my party, and that's my loyalty to my state and my country." Whether or not we support the war, we should always support the troops. It's good to know that there are American heroes in the Senate supporting the American heroes in the military.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

Obama: Too black? Not black enough?

BY STEPHEN TURNER
COLUMNIST

Since Barack Obama has thrown his hat into the ring for the Democratic Party's bid for the presidency, he is receiving a great deal of criticism for being black. But this criticism is not coming from the people you would suspect. The old guard of the Civil Rights Movement, and other African American leaders have charged that Barack Obama is not black enough for them to back his candidacy at this time. It has been said that major black leaders such as the Rev. Al Sharpton are in full support of Obama's Democratic rival Sen Hillary Clinton.

Obama is the son of a Caucasian woman from Kansas and an black

African immigrant. His ancestors did not have the "American experience" that most black Americans have had, meaning that their families suffered through the hardships of slavery and the Jim Crow era in the decades that followed. He is a second-generation African descendant. This is why the Congressional Black Caucus and many other black leaders have strayed away from the Obama campaign. Also, Sen. Obama is a graduate of Harvard Law School and an ivy-leaguer. The liberal black groups have used his own education against him, much like they did with Bill Cosby during "The Cosby Show's" successful run back in the 1980s and early 1990s. To use an old southern cliché, they say that he is "gettin'

above his raisin."

Is Sen. Obama too white, as the black leadership has eluded to? He is well-respected and has a growing network of support from many white Americans, but has he betrayed those who would relish in electing the first black president? The concept at work here is the American perception of race. Although Americans know that he is of mixed race birth, the issues that spring up about his campaign are of a racial difference between he and his white constituency, and now he and his black constituency as well. If he were to be elected to the highest office in the land, he would be considered the first African American president.

Who will stand and say that he is the first person of

mixed race to be president? No one, and do you want to know why? Because in America, we are still seeing things in black and white. There is no grey area for America. It is still a confused and racially divided society that chooses to classify individuals according to their skin color (or the skin colors of the parents as is the case with Sen. Obama). Mixed race persons are still classified as black or white; there is no middle ground. If only we could make an attempt to quit categorizing people based on that old social construct called race (social construct meaning it was an invention of mankind; its not as if it has any real biological significance) and move on with our lives.

Send responses to
colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

Our Voice

University Senate's decision is proof that students have a voice

We are pleased the University Senate's proposal to bar seniors who had not completed necessary requirements to graduate from walking at the commencement ceremony was voted down.

The current rule allows students to walk if they have up to 15 hours to complete in the summer.

We believe that this rule is fair, and that it is how it should stay. Walking at commencement is a big deal for students who have worked very hard to earn their degree. One or two classes or an internship should not keep these students from achieving this symbolic rite of passage.

Obviously, the majority of our students will be in favor of the senate's decision, but students need to realize that they can have an impact on these decisions in the future.

Senate members are composed of faculty, staff and students. The faculty members are elected to the council, staff members are on the senate based on their job title, and students are appointed through their position in the Student Government Association.

SGA has four seats on the senate to represent the voice of the students on campus. Currently, your student senators on the University Senate are SGA President Janessa Hartmann, SGA Vice President Rachel Hodge, SGA Secretary Bianca Longmire and SGA secretary Will Thompson.

These students represent us to their fellow senators. We need to let them know how we feel so that they can express the opinion of the campus.

Please get involved. Senate meetings are open to the public and if you care about what goes on at GCSU then make it known, write a letter, find out what faculty members are on staff and tell them what you think.

The senate soon faces another important proposal. At the next senate meeting, scheduled for Friday, March 9 at 12:30 p.m. in Herty Hall room 252, Dr. Beth Rushing, the dean of Arts & Sciences, will suggest a new policy with the intent to place a cap on the amount of classes a student can withdraw from while attending GCSU.

This proposal affects nearly all students at GCSU, whether you drop a class every semester or just in cases of emergency.

If you care about this issue then make it known. Attend the meeting, contact your student representatives, talk to faculty members.

You can make a difference.

The senate has a major say in what goes on at your school and affects your education.

Believe it or not, getting an education is the reason you are here.

Take an active part in it.

Send responses to
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Attendance policies should be absent in GCSU classrooms

Dear Editor,

I would like to address class-imposed attendance policies. I think an attendance policy is unfair, and is an issue that many in the student body have a problem with.

Students have to pay to come to school and it should be up to them whether or not they attend class. I see the positive side of an attendance policy; it forces students to attend class because no one wants their grade affected because one too many classes were missed. It requires students to show up for class.

I think it is extremely unjust. If a student does not attend enough class, then it

is their fault whether or not they received enough information to pass a test or the class. It is a student's own responsibility to be on time and go to class. It should not be something that is forced onto students. It would not be fair if a student received high grades on all assignments but missed one too many classes and got a lower grade than deserved. Obviously, the student went to enough classes to know the material and receive good grades.

I understand that teachers do this not to hurt the students but to encourage the students to come to class on a regular basis. In public high schools, there are attendance policies because it is government

run and the government makes the decisions, but public high schools are free. In a university where it is not free and the students have to pay for all materials, classes, and tuition it should be the student's money that decides how often a class is attended. We are paying to go here and it is our money that is lost if we fail a class. We are supposed to be learning to be responsible adults in college, allow students to make responsible decisions alone without policies.

Sincerely,
Kelly Reagin
Freshman
Undecided

Quick reads for the uninformed

Dear Editor,

Three Tasks for Students Concerned about a "black table" at Sodexho:

1. Ask yourself why white students sit together at Sodexho. Why didn't Lugo (Feb. 16 issue) refer to white students as making a choice to "separate – to segregate"? She suggests that black students, by sitting together, have somehow rejected a noble gesture from whites to sit with them, thus wrongfully segregating themselves.
- It disturbs Lugo and apparently whites who support her view (Feb. 23 issue, "Lugo hit the nail on the head with her assessment") that "certain groups of people separate themselves and act like they can get away with something because of their color." I wonder what black students who sit together at Sodexho are trying to get away with? It would appear that they are trying to take over the nation. Lugo tells the reader that Martin Luther King, Jr. did not intend "to create

a black elite society, or any other racial societies, that would one day conquer the nation and outnumber the whites." But the blacks who sit together at Sodexho intend, apparently, to do just that.

2. Read about whites who have worked for racial justice (*see reading list online*), and you will find folks who are not threatened by people of color who sit together for meals. More importantly, they are unlikely to feel excluded or hurt when people of color prefer their own lived experience as their guide for accomplishing racial equality. As many of the white workers for racial justice describe, self-examination is a major part of their mission. They reflect on their feelings and interpretations and assume that eliminating their own prejudice is a life-long struggle. Similarly, read about men who work alongside women in the feminist movement who are not easily offended when women want their own space, and read about men who under-

stand how to step aside and interact with women as movement leaders. Those who claim an interest in social justice must, at the very least, move beyond egocentrism.

3. Beyond reading to find answers to oft-repeated questions (instead of just asking them without implying some sense of personal responsibility for action), take advantage of the opportunity provided to you by virtue of your presence on a college campus and take some classes in this area – we have to, at some point, take personal responsibility for what is our "singularly appropriate education" around race in the U.S. This will be true for you if, and only if, you actually want to be able to find answers to these questions and not just to ask them as a way to let yourself off the hook for taking any action.

Sincerely,
Sandra Godwin and
Stephanie McClure
Assistant Professors of
Sociology

THE COLONNADE POLICY: LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Colonnade encourages readers to express their views and opinions by sending letters to the editor at: CBX 2442; Milledgeville, Ga. 31061 or by e-mail at colonnadeletters@gcsu.edu

All letters must be typed and include:

- names

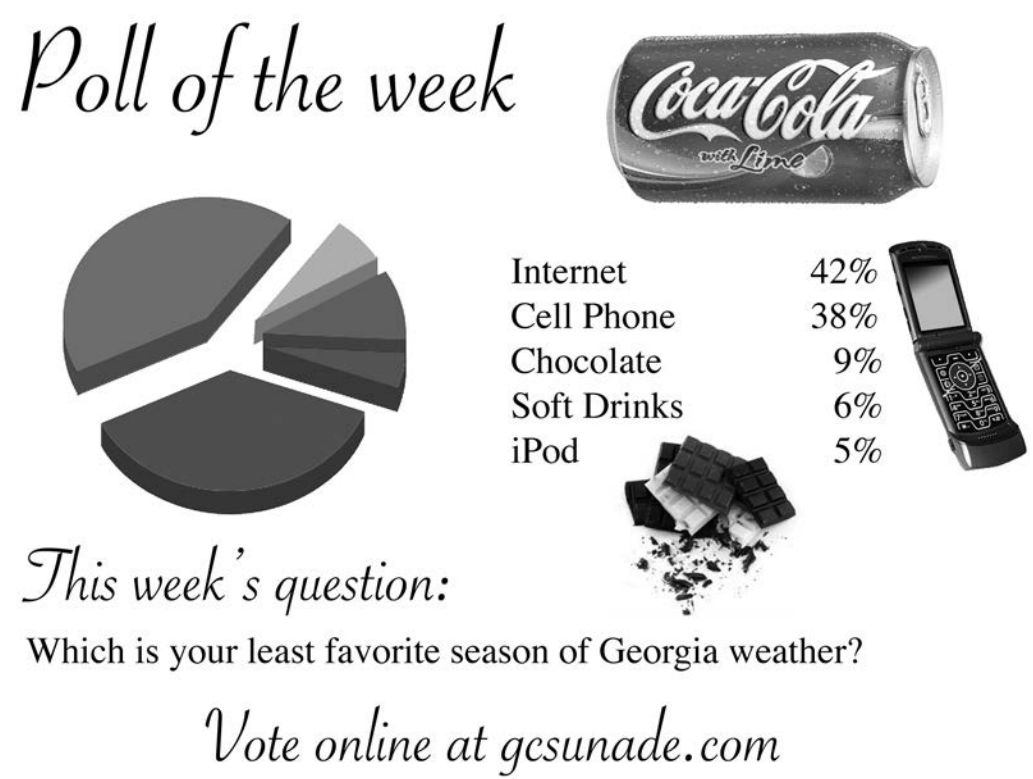
- address/ Email address
 - telephone number
 - year of study
 - major
- Only your name, year of study and major will be listed.
- Unsigned letters will not be printed. Names will be withheld only under very unusual circumstances.
 - Letters longer than 300

words may be condensed.

- All letters will be edited for grammar, spelling and punctuation errors.
- All letters become the property of The Colonnade and cannot be returned.
- We are not able to acknowledge their receipt or disposition. Letters will be printed at the discretion of the Editor in Chief.

POLL OF THE WEEK

GRAPHIC BY LEE SANDOW





Bobcat Beat


“What are your opinions on diet pills? Do you think they are bad for you? Why or why not?”



"Diet pills sound dangerous. A healthier alternative would be exercising and eating right. It would be more fun and rewarding for someone than taking pills."

Alex Pate, Sophomore, Pre-Nursing

"I am not very educated on them, but I would not take them personally. You can see all the infomercials on T.V. trying to persuade people into buying the pills and some people buy into the pills."




April Mouton, Senior, Mass Communication



"Diet pills are bad for you because of their possible harmful effects. A better way to loose weight would be to choose a healthier alternative."

Alex Fahey, Sophomore, History

"I believe it depends on the situation. People who are overweight to an extreme may want to use them if they see no other options. People, though, of average height and weight should not use them. I think women would take them on a more regular basis before men."



Antonio Washington, Junior, Computer Science




"The diet pills are a last resort supplement. I would try and avoid them and just exercise first. As long as people don't abuse them, I think some people may benefit from their use."

Colin McAlister, Junior, Accounting

Beat Reported by Kate McWilliams

The Litter Box

Instant Message with "ColonnadeVent"

**ColonnadeVent**

Last message received at: 6:33:10 PM

After living at Bobcat Village for two years and signing a lease for a third, incoming freshmen still get priority over me and I HAVE to move out of my already established apartment?!?

The vents just aren't funny anymore. They used to be mildly entertaining, but now it's just a bunch of freshmen making jokes about Saga that we've all heard over and over.

Why do frat kids always think that they are soooo cool because they get to pay for their friends? We get the point you like to party, congrats. You don't have to think that you are superior because of that.

I don't know you. You don't need to touch my arm when you talk to me. Mostly because I don't know where your hands have been (ew), but partly because you're invading my bubble. We're just talking. We don't need to touch.

You gotta love that we live in middle Georgia but yet we manage to have one random palm tree on campus between Lanier and Atkinson... does anybody else think this is really weird... I mean don't, get me wrong, I really do like it.. It's just real random!!!

What is the point of having a bus system, when they never come on time? I mean really, who is going to wait 15 minutes for a bus when they decide to leave for class in 15 minutes?

It's just like in high school. The only difference: Jocks peak in high school. Greeks peak in college.

I want to do you in the inflatables.



I'm not a member of the Colonnade, I only eat their food.

Why can't the kids in Bell park somewhere other than on Wilkinson Street? Some people have practicums they have to rush to after class and taking all the parking so that you don't have to walk more than 500 ft. to go to Wal-Mart is pretty pathetic. GCSU should think about it's students, not it's aesthetic beauty.

PHUCK YOU COLONNADE FOR EDITING MY COMMENT LAST WEEK!

Lucida G... 12 B I U A A Link [icons]

Want to vent about something? Send us a message about what's bothering you to screen name **ColonnadeVent**. Comments can be sent anytime, any day of the week.



Send



“Anyone else sick of the Housing people telling you that University Housing is the cheapest and best thing around? I pay around \$300 a month.”

—The Litter Box,
Colonnade, March 9th

Yep, you’re right. Good point.
There ARE cheaper places to live.

Then again, those cheaper places probably don’t include FREE laundry, a FREE car wash, FREE cable (with premium movie channels), FREE Internet, and ALL utilities INCLUDED.

Or fitness rooms, intramural fields and recreational facilities, or places to hang with your friends. And chances are we’re not talking luxury apartments, with full kitchens that include microwaves and dishwashers.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

March 2 - March 7

Friday, March 2

2 p.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Clayton State, Centennial Center Courts

3:30 p.m.

L.E.A.D Meeting, 131 Maxwell Student Union

7 p.m.

First Friday Foreign Films: Paheli (India), A&S Auditorium

9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Back In Black Formal, Magnolia Ballroom

Saturday, March 3

SpringFest 2007

10 p.m.

Lady Bobcats Tennis vs. Southern Indiana, Centennial Center Courts

1 p.m.

Lady Bobcats Tennis vs. Anderson Centennial Center Courts

1 p.m.

Bobcats Tennis vs. Anderson Centennial Center Courts

Sunday, March 4

2 p.m.

GMC & GCSU Present The Macon Symphony Orchestra feat Xiang Gao, Violinist, Goldstein Center for Performing Arts at GMC

Monday, March 5

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

GCSU Nursing Expo, Magnolia Ballroom

12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Bobcat Village Fitness Challenge, Front Campus

7:30 p.m.

Women Composers Concert, Max Noah Recital Hall

8 p.m.

Flannery O'Connor Memorial Lecture, "Not Deferential to White People: Alice Walker, Flannery O'Connor, and the Art of Biography," Evelyn C. White, A&S Auditorium

Tuesday, March 6

2 p.m.

Lady Bobcats Tennis vs. Armstrong Atlantic State, Centennial Center Courts

2 p.m.

Lady Bobcats Tennis vs. Armstrong Atlantic State, Centennial Center Courts

3 p.m.

Lady Bobcats Softball vs. USC Upstate, Peeler Athletic Complex (West Campus)

6 p.m.

Disney College Program Presentations, 202 Atkinson Hall

7:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Beginning Shag Dance Class, Miller Dance Studio, Max Noah Recital Hall

7 p.m.

Campus Catholics Holy Grounds, Blackbird Coffee House

8 p.m.

BSU Synergy, Magnolia Ballroom, SAC

Wednesday, March 7

Registration for Summer and Fall Semester 2007 begins 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

Workshop: Exploring the Dimensions of Learning, University Banquet room A

1 p.m.

Disney College Program Presentations, 202 Atkinson Hall

5:30 - 7 p.m.

Global Democracy First Wednesday Teach-In series, University Banquet Room

5 p.m.

SIFE Meeting, 109 Atkinson Hall

6 p.m.

A.N.G.E.L.S. (Aids Now Grasps Every Living Soul), The GIVE Center

6 - 8 p.m.

Wonderful Wednesdays Resume & Career Workshop, Bobcat Village Clubhouse

6 - 8 p.m.

Film: Aaron Russo's America, A&S Auditorium

7 p.m.

Portion Distortion, Wellness Depot Classroom

8 p.m.

Wesley House, Magnolia Ballroom

Thursday, March 8

2 p.m.

Outdoor Aerobics, Wellness Depot Front Deck/Lawn

4 p.m.

Africana Studies Program Series Public Lecture by Dr. Alpha Bah, A&S Auditorium


5:30 p.m.

Annual Women's History Lecture, A&S Auditorium

8 p.m.


GCSU Jazz Band Spring Concert

Please send calendar submissions to colonnadenews@gcsu.edu



THE COLONNADE

Public Safety Report



A near hit

On Feb. 21, at approximately 2:28 a.m., while Officer Reonas was patrolling the Hancock Street area near Jackson Street, a man ran out in the road in front of the patrol car, almost being struck by the car. Contact was made with an individual, who was very unsteady on his feet and had a strong odor of alcohol on his breath. The individual began yelling profanities at Officer Reonas and Sgt. Lance. The individual was arrested and transported to Milledgeville P.D. and was charged with public drunk and disorderly conduct.

Student receives harassing calls

On Feb. 22, at approximately 2:40 p.m., a young woman reported that she was receiving harassing phone calls from an individual, who she had already told to stop calling. The woman stated that she did not want to press charges and she was advised to talk with counseling services.

A marijuana raid in Napier

On Feb. 22, at approximately 6:59 p.m., Officer Reonas was dispatched to Napier Hall in reference to possible drug activity. Contact was made with a resident and while speaking with him, Officer Reonas observed several marijuana seeds and loose marijuana on the student's desk. Consent was given to search the room and several smoking devices were found as well. One of the student's roommates told Officer Reonas that there were several marijuana plants that had been thrown in a garbage can outside of Napier. The plants, seeds and smoking devices were confiscat-

ed and placed into evidence. The student was arrested and transported to Milledgeville P.D. and was charged with possession of marijuana.

Whisky bent and fighting mad

On Feb. 23, at approximately 2:31 a.m., Officer Reonas was dispatched to Napier Hall in reference to threats being made by a student. Contact was made with the student, who advised the officer that he had drank a bottle of whiskey and was mad at his roommate and suitemates for incidents that had happened earlier in the evening. The student was arrested and transported to Milledgeville P.D. and charged with underage possession of alcohol.

Two culprits go bushing and bashing

On Feb. 23, at approximately 8:27 a.m., Officer Gaines observed two bushes on the hood of a vehicle on Greene Street. Officer Gaines observed that the bushes had been removed from the area between Wells Hall and the Smith House. Shortly after that, he received a call in reference to a broken passenger-side window in the Mayfair parking lot. A check of the cameras on campus revealed that two individuals had pulled the shrubs and put them on the parked vehicle. A check of the cameras also revealed that the subjects were around the vehicle with the broken window that night also. The information and evidence has been turned over to Detective Butler for further investigation.

The bookworm returns


On Feb. 25, at approximately 10:54 p.m., Sgt. English was dispatched to the rear of the GCSU Library and Information Technology Center in reference to a suspect from a previous case which was reported in the same area. Contact was made with the individual, who was trespassing from all GCSU property.

Information compiled by Jessica Murphy


Please go online to gcsunade.com to download the extended Public Safety Report podcast.

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Milledgeville



Jazz Band pays tribute



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

The GCSU Jazz Band is preparing for a concert to tribute Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller. Selections will include classics such as "Moonlight Serenade," "Sing, Sing, Sing," "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and "In the Mood." The show will swing on March 8 and 9 at 8 p.m. in Russel Auditorium and all of the proceeds will go toward funding for the Jazz Band's trip to the Czech Republic during Maymester. The performances are expected to sell out so get your tickets in advance.

Art students spice up MSU with mural



BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Lauren Evans begins work on the mural that will line the hall on the first floor of Maxwell Student Union.

BY BRIAN FERRELL
STAFF REPORTER

Over the course of next few weeks, the barren walls of the bottom floor of the Maxwell Student Union will be filled with life and color, courtesy of Valerie Aranda and her Painting III class. The class began painting Wednesday after the project was approved by

Auxiliary Services.

"Valerie approached me with the idea last year," said Kyle Cullars, executive director of Auxiliary Affairs. "It's a pretty sterile hallway and I think it could certainly use a little color to help move people through the building."

Aranda has transformed many empty walls in the community with her murals. She directed the

murals in the atrium of the Kilpatrick Building and the walls of Sodexho. Aranda also took two GCSU students to San Antonio last year for two weeks to paint murals for inner-city kids.

"The theme for this mural is 'creating change,'" said Aranda. "Part of the mission statement for this school is civic engagement and we're trying to show that students can make an impact on campus."

The design of the mural was a collaboration by the entire class and addresses many issues such as violence towards women. "Everyone added their own little touch to it," said Brooke Spivey, a junior art major. "We've been working on it all semester and I don't think we'll be done for a few more weeks."

The goal of Aranda's class is to paint one mural on campus and one off-campus in the community. Possible choices for the community mural include Central State Hospital and the Baldwin Service Center, but Aranda is still open for suggestions.

Art department chair Richard Lou says the project is part of an ongoing

endeavor for faculty and students.

"We're interested in how art can intersect a public space," Lou said. "We wanted to get students to collaborate and challenge some of the issues in the world around them."

The art department intends to cultivate the relationship between students and the community in the future.

"It's important that we teach students that art can be a dialogue between the public sphere and the community," Lou said. "We want our students to be the design facilitators that make it happen."

Aranda urges all faculty and students interested in participating in the project to contact her as soon as possible.

"There are no special grants or free money associated with this job," Aranda said. "We get a small materials cost which is covered by student fees, but we need more man power to get it done."

If you are interested in helping with the "Creating Change" mural, contact Valerie Aranda at 445-2431 or by email at valerie.aranda@gcsu.edu.

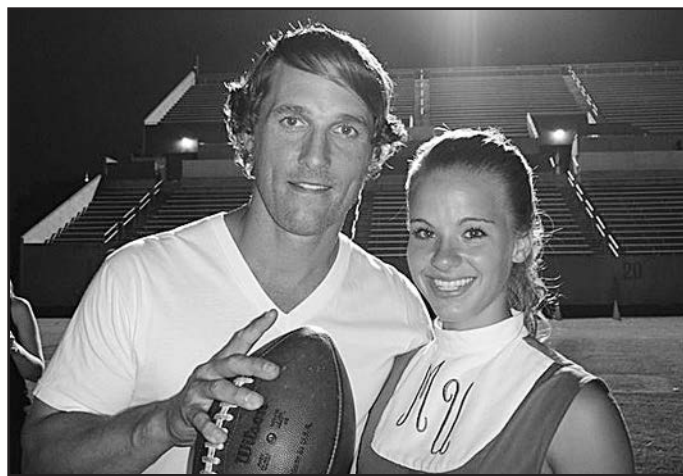


PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE COLONNADE

Mallory is pictured above on the set of "We Are Marshall" with Matthew McConaughey.

GCSU student finds way to silver screen

BY JESSICA MURPHY
SENIOR REPORTER

Palm trees, dolphins and fish dangle from the ceiling. An easel with a blank canvas stands in the corner. Paintings of the ocean adorn the four walls of her room. Most who enter Mallory Israel's room assume that her passion is surfing, the water or the outdoors. Home décor-wise, Israel's room appears complete. What could possibly be missing? Perhaps the picture of Matthew McConaughey, who she met last summer while filming the movie "We Are Marshall".

Israel, a 20-year-old GCSU art major, is not the typical student. When she's not in class or socializing with her friends, she is acting.

"Let's go back in time," Israel said. "I had a scout from One Model Place contact me and they told me that I would be a good model. That's when my modeling and acting career started."

Freshman year Israel got involved with One Model Place and her career immediately took off. The 5'4", hazel-eyed, brunette from Locust Grove, received between 30 to 40 e-mails a week from different companies and photographers.

"I eventually started getting paid for working and I built my portfolio up to over 2,000 pictures," Israel said.

Israel's acting career continued to blossom. After being an extra in a few music videos, including the All-American Reject's "We Are the Ones," an opportunity of a lifetime presented itself.

"I came across the movie 'We Are Marshall' and I saw that it was in Atlanta I saw that they needed cheer-

leaders, and so I e-mailed them immediately," Israel said. "I've cheered for 12 years so this was perfect for me."

Less than two weeks after she sent the e-mail, she was asked to be the stand-in for Kate Mara, who played main character Annie Cantrell.

"I was happy that I was going to get paid more from being a stand-in, but I really wanted to be on film," Israel said.

Her days on the sweltering hot set were long and hectic. Spending up to 18 hours on one scene, she soon learned that being a stand-in is draining.

"I spent three weeks being a stand-in, and one night the producer asked me if I wanted to be one of the Marshall University cheerleaders and I was shocked," Israel said. "At that point, I was just trying to keep my cool."

Israel had gone from backstage to the silver screen. Working four days a week, and no less than 16-hours, the stress started to take a toll on Israel.

"It was absolutely insane," Israel said. "But I got to work side-by-side Matthew McConaughey and I can't really complain about that."

When asked what it was like working with McConaughey, Israel just laughs.

"He stays in character the entire time, even when he's not filming. He would walk up to us and start yelling about how we should be pumping up the crowd, and this would be while we were not filming," Israel said. "He is an amazing actor though and is very good at what he does. And he's fun to cuup with."

FAME Page 9

One size fits all with 'Black Dress'

BY SARAH VER STEEG
SENIOR REPORTER

For many women, their wardrobe is not complete without the little black dress. Its versatility allows it to be worn anywhere from a business meeting to a cocktail party. It is elegant in its simplicity.

This same little black dress carries connotations as well. Fashion designer Coco Chanel, who, along with Audrey Hepburn made the look famous in the 1920s, promoted the idea of fabulous and luxurious beauty. To her, fashion was everything, and status depended on how flawless your look was.

"Dress shabbily and they remember the dress; dress impeccably and they remember the woman," Chanel said.

This idea of beauty may work for the rich and famous, but for GCSU art

students Jess Fouts and Katie Nuckolls, beauty is not found in what a woman wears, but in her personality.

Fouts and Nuckolls recently created a photography project called "Little Black Dress." The project featured six GCSU female students of different sizes, all wearing the same size 5/6 formal black dress.

Obviously, a size 5/6 dress does not fit every woman's shape, and the LBD models were no different. For most, the dress refused to zip fully. For others, the style was all wrong. Fouts said most of the models were initially intimidated at the thought of walking in public wearing a half-zipped formal gown.

"Most of the models were of different backgrounds and ethnicities," Fouts said. "They're not the ideal beauty for

America, but they are still so beautiful."

Fouts said their intention was to get away from how the media portrays models.

"Our purpose was to display that these girls are beautiful even though they're not a size 6 or in a magazine," Nuckolls said. "It was to bring out the beauty in everyone."

They did not instruct the models on what to do or how to pose, but risking their chagrin, told them simply to act natural.

"We didn't want the cookie-cutter models found in magazines and awards," Nuckolls said. "We had them be themselves."

Elisa Iannilli said she felt awkward at first and did not know how to react to the camera in a dress she was uncomfortable in. Even though she fit into it, she didn't think the dress

DRESS Page 9

Diamonds come in many shapes

BY JAMIE FLEMING
SENIOR REPORTER

Students were clad in suits, ties and evening gowns. The tables were decorated with small glass bowls of water with floating candles. There were silver, baby blue and black balloons strewn across the MSU Lounge floor. Members of the GCSU Jazz Band played tunes while students socialized and danced to the music.

Students floated across the floor, dancing to the smooth sounds of the jazz ensemble at the Black Student Alliance 10th annual Heritage Ball.

"We called it 'Diamond in the Rough' because, like raw diamonds, African-Americans were seen as something rough and without beauty, no value," said Jessica Bean, senior international business major and chair of the



JIMI ODOM / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Students dance the night away at the Heritage Ball. This year's theme was 'Diamond in the Rough.'

Heritage Ball committee. "But through the pressure - slavery, racism, etc. - something beautiful and valuable was formed - a strong people who are showing the world that we're valuable to society."

The small jazz group played for the first half of the evening, and for the

rest of the night, a laptop was used to play some of the latest music. Freshman psychology major and Heritage Ball Committee chairperson Melisa Coker said they weren't able to get the same band from last year, but they found

BALL Page 9

Latino heritage depicted in exhibit



KATEY FOLLETT / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Students listen to the artists behind the exhibit Kindred Spirits.

BY BECCA BROOKS
STAFF WRITER

Artists Arturo Lindsay and Fahamu Pecou filled Blackbridge Hall Art Gallery with enthusiasm and passion, which can only be described as Ashé. Ashé is the Yoruba concept of the life force of all things, and they hope to embody its healing and therapeutic powers in their works.

The exhibition, Kindred Spirits, references the African presence in Latino heritage. Ashé is the name of the falsely manifested magazine that spoofs the image packages of current popular culture.

Pecou’s works focuses mainly on the black male image and the callous packages perpetuated and idealized by the media. Lindsay’s work concentrates on the platonic male relationships and the expressions of love. Together, both artists are redefining images of masculinity and attempting to create social change.

“I wonder about the world these days,” Lindsay said. “I want to take action on those issues.”

Pecou and Lindsay collaborated because their lives as individuals truly cross, and everything to the sweat of their brows speaks as the life force between them. Though Pecou was once a student of Lindsay, Lindsay claims to have learned just as much from Pecou as a mentor.

“Pecou helps me look at what people are packaging,” Arturo said, “and unfortunately, now a strong woman on TV is now able to pull a gun and

physically harm people. That stereotypical male is now transferred to a woman.”

The relationship between the two artists is more than mentor to student; it is a deep bond that provides a perspective for change that relates to various audiences through humor and comparisons. Sophomore Jessica Baker, a museum studies major, was impressed by the exhibition.

“I think by choosing a popular magazine to do a spoof of, it related well to the audience, especially college students. We are more apt to listen because it affects our generation directly. It appeals to a larger public,” Baker said.

According to Baker, the exhibition was fun and hopefully challenged society. She personally enjoyed the rebellious nature of the exhibit.

“I’ve always wanted to work with contemporary art. I like people who are opinionated. I’m all about getting people angry or rallied up for a cause against traditionalism,” Baker said.

In Pecou’s opinion, the media perpetuates images in our society and no one reacts or takes a stance of opposition when negative types of images are portrayed. Arturo agrees that we, as separate individuals of a society, need to educate a responsible population that will make an effort to stop feeding the machine.

“Intelligent people need to become conscious of it, talk about it, and react to it,” Lindsay said. “When you hear degrading music, turn it off, don’t buy it, and tell other people not to

buy it.”

The products of Lindsay and Pecou humorously depict their aspirations for our generation and the future of our society.

“The media is warping us,” Baker said. “However, the artists are warping our generation in an intelligent and artistic way.”

Lindsay agrees that art is a powerful force.

“Art legitimizes certain things. In a very small way, it makes a statement about love and sex, and raises questions using the same tricks, since they have spent a lot of time trying to mess with our minds,” Lindsay said.

By referencing the images of 50 Cent specifically, Pecou imitated images of masculinity through strength and visual wealth. However, to differentiate his artwork from actual magazines of hype, Pecou subtly uses messages and small bold print to indicate his purpose of the hype.

Pecou’s art dissects the absurdity of celebrity culture, black masculinity, and the extravagance of hip-hop culture. While Lindsay’s artwork observes the consequence of rerouting faults of individuals to an entire population, it also explores healing, love, and freedom of individuals and of society.

The Kindred Spirits exhibition will be open for viewing until March 23 and is free of charge. Pecou and Lindsay’s illustration of the Ashé concept cannot be over-looked and will not be forgotten.

Fame

Continued from page 8 . . .

While on the set, Israel became close to many cast mates.

By the end of filming, Israel was physically and mentally exhausted.

“The experience was worth it, but it got real tiring. Looking back, it wasn’t as exciting as I thought it would be,” Israel said. “This showed me that this is not something I would want to make of myself, there is just too much drama involved with fame.”

Coming back to Milledgeville after filming the movie was a relief for Israel. Her room is a solace

from the insanity that comes with acting and modeling.

“My room is a place where I come to unwind and be by myself,” Israel said. “It’s peaceful and relaxing and I need that in my life, especially now.”

It wasn’t long though until her role with “We Are Marshall” helped her land an odd but entertaining job.

“Wrestling, ewww, I hate wrestling,” Israel said, after she was offered a wrestling gig in North Carolina. “It’s gross but the money was so good, so I was like, ‘yeah I’ll do it.’”

Israel is the assistant to Amy Love, who is well-known in the female wrestling business. Love is training Israel to become a

top wrestler.

“Wrestling is painful, and even though all of it is being acted out, you are still getting tossed around and it hurts,” Israel said.

Israel never imagined that her childhood dreams would actually become a reality and there are still days when she can’t believe all she has accomplished.

“I love what I do, it truly is rewarding,” Israel said. “And it’s pretty cool to say that my hobbies outside of school are acting and wrestling. I’ve been blessed with so many wonderful opportunities and I really am thankful. This has been a dream come true.”



BRITTANY THOMAS / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Ornamental fish (right) from Hawaii hang from Mallory’s ceiling in her uniquely styled room.

Dress

Continued from page 8 . . .

flattered her figure. To make matters worse, her face broke out the day of the photo shoot.

“I definitely don’t consider myself a model,” Iannilli said. “I’m short and pear-shaped, and that’s not what you see on TV.”

In spite of the odds weighing against her, Iannilli was a vision of confidence in the photos. Her mom said she didn’t even recognize her.

“Beauty comes in all different sizes,” Iannilli said. “I was just one of the women it represents. We can all look amazing.”

The beauty of the LBD project is that it captures the essence of the models,

including their flaws.

“The more I work with women, no matter how perfect you think they are, they have flaws,” Iannilli said. This project shows their flaws, but it shows the beauty in them.”

The original purpose of the article was to draw attention to the dress and the environment in which the models posed. The setting was behind downtown buildings, which to the average observer, is somewhat lacking in appearance. But to these two photographers, the location was perfect.

Fouts said she and Nuckolls were astounded to see the sudden burst of confidence from each model once they arrived at the set. “When we got there, they came alive,” Fouts said.

“We thought they would

run away, but they started posing.”

The ill-fitting dress, the awkwardness and the ugly setting suddenly didn’t matter anymore.

The Little Black Dress photos are displayed at Blackbird Coffee. Barista Chris Avery said customers walk around and view the photos while waiting on their coffee. They are curious about them and ask him what the idea is behind them.

Avery said the point of the project is to show personal beauty. Every model has a close-up photo of just their face, and Avery thinks this represents their inner beauty.

“Every one of those models are beautiful ladies,” Avery said. “Beauty is not on that black dress, but on that person.”

Ball

Continued from page 8 . . .

another to play.

Karla White, sophomore chemistry major and treasurer of BSA said the jazz music seemed fitting for the event.

“The jazz quartet seemed like a good fit for the Heritage Ball because jazz music played a major part in the evolution of African-American culture,” White said. “The jazz quartet at GCSU is stellar, and I was happy the committee asked them to be a part of the festivities.”

Although Coker said she was a little disappointed about the small turn-out, she thinks it turned out well.

“I think it was really good; I wish we had more people come out, but I also understand there were a lot of events on campus that night,” Coker said. “We had Dance Marathon, and people had to get their service and we also had retreats (that weekend)...” White said she thought the Heritage Ball went well this year.

Melvin Lattany, a senior biology major who attended, said he had a good time there.

“I thought it was nice,” Lattany said. “I thought it was a pretty okay turnout, not as good as I thought it would be, (but) it was rather nice.”

Bean said she thought there was a good turn out, and she has heard that everyone enjoyed it. But one thing she wants people to know is that it is open to everyone.

“(It is) not just for BSA members or African-Americans. Next year, I would like to see greater diversity and the attendance double”

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Week One



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THE SPORTS GUY

BY WES BROWN



Give refs some time

Shouts of angry fans bounced off the walls of the Centennial Center this week as many students questioned the calls of student referees in the intramural basketball tournament. One team was even given a "bench warning" for being too rowdy and aggressive in their criticism. Are GCSU fans out of hand or are the referees just that bad?

As a fan, participant and writer for many sports, I know that not every game will be officiated perfectly. There will be instances when a call or two is a mistake or missed, but in numerous games I observed in the tournament this week, referees missed calls such as jump ball, up and down, and more than enough foul calls. Are these student officials even being trained or are we just giving them a whistle and pointing them to the court?

Each student referee is sent through two-day training. On the first day of training, students are taught the rules of the game. On the second day, students undergo simulation of the game to gain live experience of the job.

Although these officials are knowledgeable about the rules I have seen many referees go an entire game without making one call. There is no way that everyone is playing flawless basketball.

Basketball is a fast paced game that takes an experienced referee to officiate. Like many things in life, it takes experience to be great at something. This is the same for officiating.

"As far as actually teaching someone how to referee, I can only do that to a certain point," Sanderson said. "You are not going to become a good official until you have lots of experience doing it. The longer you do it, the more confidence you get and the better you see the game."

The intramural department needs to assign experienced referees to basketball. Any referee with less than a year of experience should not officiate basketball. Basketball is one of the more technical sport offered by intramurals. First time officials need to start with sports such as ultimate disc or softball.

As for the fans, do not be extremely critical of the officials. They are human and do make mistakes. Even officials of collegiate and professional sports do not make every call. Be patient with the refs. Check out gcsunade.com for more thoughts on the subject.

Lady Bobcats look to defend '06 title

BY WES BROWN
SENIOR REPORTER

The GCSU women's basketball team (19-8, 10-4 PBC) travels to Lander University in Greenwood, S.C., this week to defend their title as Peach Belt Conference Tournament champions and become the first team to repeat since Columbus State did it in 2001.

The Lady Bobcats won the conference tournament in 2006 with a 67-61 win over top-seeded Clayton State in the semifinals and an 89-83 double-overtime victory over Francis Marion in the championship game.

The road to a repeat as conference champions will be a bit easier this year, as the Lady Bobcats are the third seed.

The ladies begin their quest Thursday at 1 p.m. against No. 2 seed UNC Pembroke. GCSU dominated UNC Pembroke at home this season with a score of 64-37 but are not underestimating the Lady Braves, as the team has beaten both No. 1 seeds in tournament, USC Aiken and Clayton State, and has won nine out of their last 11 games.

"All the teams are really strong in the Peach Belt Conference," said Emily Bixler, sophomore guard. "Anybody can beat anyone in our conference. We just need to focus on the game we have coming up and bring all that we got every game."

GCSU also understands the aura of a college basketball tournament.

"Upsets happen all the time in tournaments," said Lindsey Smith, junior guard. "What's done is done. We just need to handle what is in front of us and then go to the



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

Junior Guard Lindsey Smith drains a freethrow as the Lady Bobcats drop Columbus State 67-61 in their final home game of the season last Wednesday.

next thing."

Head Coach John Carrick is doing many things to get his team prepared including posting player profiles of UNC Pembroke's team in the locker room, but Carrick starts by informing the team of what the Lady Braves are capable of doing.

"The first thing I do is show my players the facts," Carrick said. "I show them that the season is history. It doesn't matter that we beat them by over 20 points. It is a new season, we have new life. We can wash all of our sins away and start over again."

The team held a light practice on Monday, working on their fundamentals, and will hold an intense practice on Tuesday to simulate the pace and rigor of a basketball tournament. Carrick believes the key to victory in a tournament is to have the passion to win.



WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER
Smith (12) fights for a steal against Columbus State. The Lady Bobcats are currently battling in the Peach Belt Conference Tournament at Lander.

"This team is good enough to beat anybody if we play with passion," Carrick said. "If we play with the passion that siblings play each other with in their driveway, the passion to win and be the best, then we will not come up empty-handed."

Carrick uses many strategies throughout the season to give his team intensity and is continuing this up to the tip-off of the first game in the tournament. One tac-

tic Carrick does is recite a quote at the beginning of each practice to gets his players pumped up for the upcoming games. Monday's quote was perfect for this week's circumstances as a tournament is a both a test to a player's mental and physical endurance.

The quote read, "It's a little like wrestling a gorilla- you don't quit when you're tired, you quit when the gorilla is tired."

Athletes honored with weekly award

BY PATTY MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

As a way to increase recognition for student athletes, Sports Information Director Al Weston has created the GCSU Athlete of the Week Program.

"It's a great way to recognize our student athletes and get some media coverage for their efforts," Weston said. "What I do is, after nominating students for the Peach Belt Conference awards, combine the names and e-mail the ballot to the local media and the athletic department for a vote."

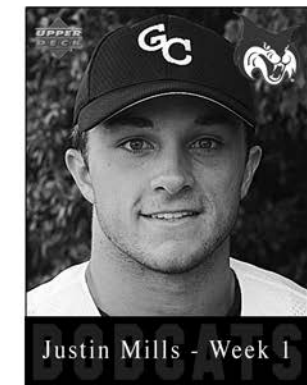
The e-mail contains a description of the previous week's game and spotlights a key player, whether it was the top scorer or the one with the game-changing performance. Because of the current overlap between Winter and Spring sports, there are many deserving athletes, creating a full ballot.

Having established a similar program at Lock Haven University in Pennsylvania, a Division II school, Weston sees it as an easy, yet effective, way to promote both the athletics programs and its students.

"We're getting a good response," Weston said. "Some reporters from The Union-Recorder really get into it, asking why so-and-so didn't win."

One of the only rules is that coaches can't vote for their own players. Steve Barsby, head men's and women's tennis coach, really appreciates Weston's efforts and likes the idea of voting outside one's own sport.

"It's a good chance for other coaches to learn more about other athletes that play," Barsby said. "We get so busy with our season, but an e-mail is a great way to read



Justin Mills - Week 1

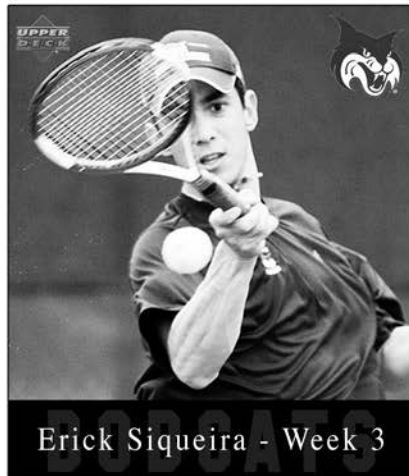


Aaron Clark - Week 2

GCSU's Star Performers



Athlete of the Week:
Jan. 28 - Feb. 25



Erick Siqueira - Week 3



Stanley Keaton - Week 4

GRAPHIC BY WILL GODFREY / SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHER

about other athletes and learn what's going on."

Jay Johnson, a graduate assistant athletic trainer who works with the baseball team, also thinks the program is a creative way to give credit to athletes.

"We have one of the strongest teams in the conference and one of the strongest conferences in the nation, so giving recognition to our athletes is always a good thing," Johnson says.

Johnson gets a weekly vote and says that it is always a difficult decision.

"It is hard to choose because I'm with baseball and sometimes have a bias," Johnson said. "But I

like to look at the stats because I know a lot of the athletes and the amount of their hard work."

The GCSU Athlete of the Week program has already recognized three students. Senior Justin Mills represented Bobcat baseball and was followed by junior Aaron Clark from the men's basketball team. Erick Siqueira, a tennis player, was named the Athlete of the Week for the week ending Feb. 18.

Siqueira, a sophomore exercise science major, won 6 matches last week, 3 singles and 3 doubles with his partner senior Rodrigo Yamauti.

"I think of (the award) as an

encouragement to work hard and to know people see your hard work brings a good energy," Siqueira claims. "I just hope the team as a whole does well. That's more important than just 1 or 2 players doing well. The team should be connected because we can't work separately."

Barsby is proud of his athlete and is happy with the GCSU Athlete of the Week program. Barsby loves sharing the sentiment of the other coaches whose athletes have been nominated.

"It's exciting to see that other coaches can see what he's doing and know it is good," Barsby said.

THE SHORT STOP



Upcoming Sports

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Men's Tennis:

Sat.	1 p.m.	Anderson
Tue.	2 p.m. DH	Armstrong Atl.

Women's Tennis:

Fri	2 p.m.	Clayton St.
Sat.	1 p.m.	Anderson
Tue.	2 p.m.	Armstrong Atl.

STAT of the WEEK

10

The number of games the GCSU baseball team has won in a row entering it's four-game road trip.

Students master the five Ds of dodge ball



Top: Junior Brad Speers helps his team avoid losing by strategically hoarding dodge balls from the other team. Bottom: Sophomore nursing major Alex Pate of team “Tu Madre” looks to kill the opposition in the tournament this past weekend in the Centennial Center.

BY WES BROWN
SENIOR REPORTER

Dodge, duck, dip, dive, dodge.

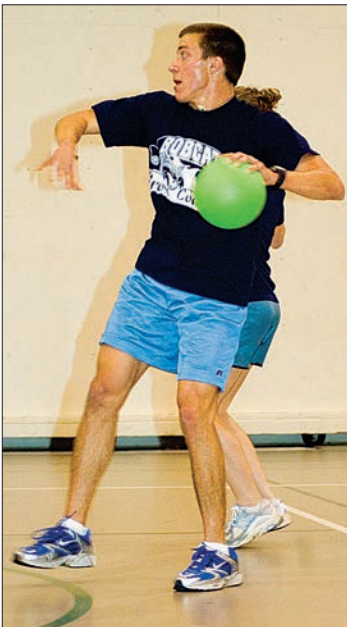
Those were the five words the six teams playing in the inaugural dodge ball tournament lived by this past Saturday in the Centennial Center.

The single elimination contest, hosted by the Campus Activities Board (CAB), consisted of more than 50 students competing for the crown as GCSU dodge ball champion.

“Dodge ball has started to become popular at a lot of schools recently, with many schools holding tournaments,” said Joel Sanderson, Coordinator of Intramural and Recreational Sports. “I organized a tournament at my last school, Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and decided to do a tournament here.”

The object of dodge ball is to eliminate all opposing players. Players are eliminated by either hitting an opposing player with a ball thrown below the shoulders or by catching a ball thrown by your opponent before it touches the ground. If a player catches a ball, a player from their team who has been eliminated may also come back into the game.

The game begins by placing the dodge balls along the center line – three one side of the center hash and three on the other. Players then line up behind their end line. Following a signal by the official, teams



rush the centerline to retrieve the balls.

Teams may only retrieve the three balls to their right of the center hash. Once a ball is retrieved it must be taken behind the attack-line before it can be legally thrown. The first team to eliminate all opposing players will be declared the winner.

The day began with pool play to determine seeds for the tournament. Each match was decided in a best of three series. After an hour and a half of pool play, the seeds were set and the crazy competition began.

In the semifinals, “The Clap” beat “Uncle Jean and his Hoo Dilly Stew” while “Shennanigans” beat “Tu Madre.” In the finals, “Shennanigans” beat “The Clap” to become the first GCSU dodge ball champion and receive free orange Wheaties t-shirts.

The tournament was nothing short of outrageous

fun and intense competition. “Uncle Jean and his Hoo Dilly Stew” dressed up in full hillbilly regalia to show team unity, while one student had so much passion for the game he sacrificed his body to save his team from losing. Junior computer science major Jason Hendrix busted his chin and chipped his tooth to help his team win.

“In one game, it was down to me and another player,” Hendrix said. “I dove to catch a ball and while I was in the air another player threw a ball at me. I used the ball I caught as a shield and instead of catching myself with my hands I fell on my face, bruising my chin and chipping one of my teeth.”

After many questioned calls and several gashes and bruises, the tournament was all about a campus uniting together to have a good time during the weekend.

“One of the things that stood out was the amount of fun the students had,” Sanderson said. “When the tournament was over it didn’t matter who won or lost, the players were just upset that it was over.”

CAB hopes to hold another dodge ball tournament next Fall, but the students want another one in the next couple of weeks. When asked if a student would play again he answered emphatically.

“Oh yeah,” sophomore nursing major Alex Pate said. “I hope they will do one again before next semester. I would love to do this again real soon.”

COACHES CORNER

BY COREY DICKSTEIN

Week 6: Kyle Hood



Kyle Hood may not look like your typical college athletics coach, but the 22-year-old is GCSU’s cheerleading coach.

Hood spent three years cheerleading while a student at GCSU before graduating in 2006. Hood was then offered the coaching job.

“We’ve always tried to keep somebody from the program (as the coach) because it is such a time-consuming job,” Hood said. “It’s not something you can just pick somebody off the street to do it, so you have to have somebody that knows the team, knows the people and knows the skills.”

Hood started cheerleading his sophomore year of college.

“I played football, I wrestled and I played soccer for my high school. We don’t have any of that here,” Hood said. “So, as a freshman I was sort of bored, and I had classes with some of the girl cheerleaders, so I started going to some of the practices and just hanging out and even practiced some but I wasn’t on the team officially until my sophomore year.”

Hood stays busy. When he is not coaching, he takes graduate classes, works as a graduate assistant in the Sports Information Department, and supervises the Wellness Depot.

Hood is pursuing a master’s in Public Administration as a basis for a career in politics.

“Long-term, my career goal is to be congressman,” Hood said. “Everybody in politics has something, like the job before they get into government, like Governor Purdue was a veterinarian. So right now I want to keep my job at (GCSU) in an athletics administer position, and get into local politics.”

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